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A CRISTATE PELLAEA.

BY WILLIAM TRELEASE.

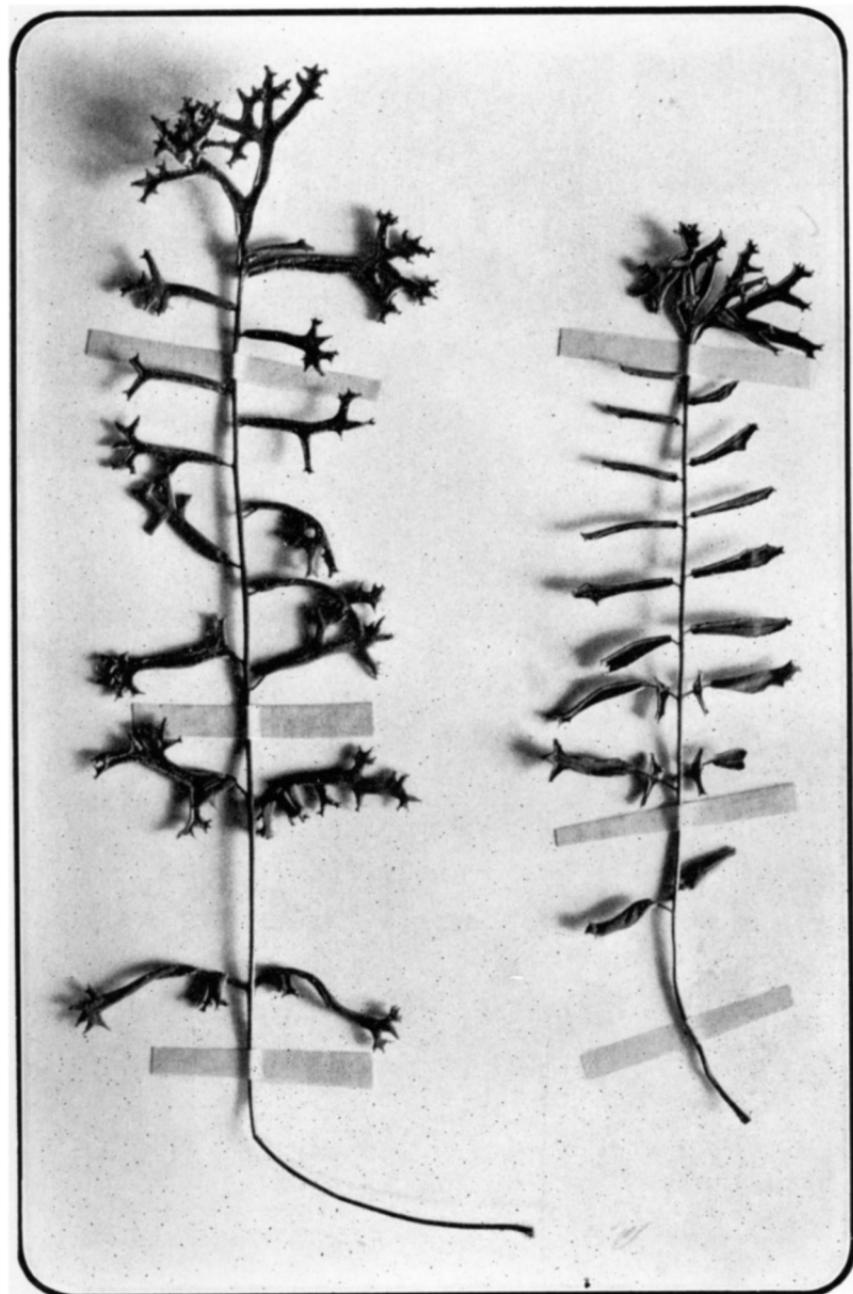
On the limestone rocks of the Meramec river region in eastern Missouri, *Pellaea atropurpurea* is a very common fern, and although the young fronds are markedly different from the mature fronds and the latter present a considerable range of variation, it is one of the best characterized ferns, as indeed is the case elsewhere in the State and throughout its range. In 1899, however, my attention was called to a plant discovered near Eureka by Mr. Gustavus Pauls, which differs from all forms of this species that I have thus far seen in the remarkable cristate deformity of its fronds, and as Mr. Pauls has since discovered other specimens of the same form, which maintains its characters,—as with the cristates of various other ferns in cultivation,—it appears worthy of a name and may be characterized as follows:—

PELLAEA ATROPURPUREA CRISTATA, n. var.

Habit of the normal form: fronds 6–8 in. high, mostly bipinnate below, nearly all of the pinnae, pinnules and lobes dichotomous, the segments cristately clustered towards the apex of the fronds and their upper lobes.—Plate 34.

Eureka, Mo., on limestone. G. Pauls. 1899.

Separates issued April 6, 1901.



PELLAEA ATROPURPUREA CRISTATA.